



December 2008

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 (7:15 meeting start) home of Charli Danielsen, 10 Kerr Avenue, Kensington.

Chapter Council Meeting p. 6: Saturday, December 6, Chapter Council Meeting and banquet at Mills college

Field Trips p. 4

Sunday, December 7, 9:30-noon, field trip to restoration sites in Dimond Canyon/Sausal Creek drainage

Sunday, January 4, 2009, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongues

Native Here p. 2: Tuesdays 12 noon-3 pm, Fridays 9 am-12 noon, and Saturdays 10 am- 2 pm

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear East Bay Chapter Members:

The success of your Chapter in carrying out its mission of protecting our state's wonderful flora depends almost entirely on the participation of volunteers. In October, many chapter members volunteered for four hours or more to make the Plant Fair a huge success and a lot of fun. Other volunteer opportunities are ongoing throughout the year in every aspect of our Chapter's work.

You may say that you don't know what you could possibly contribute to the Chapter's efforts in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

I can help you figure out the answer to that important question. Please contact Charli Danielsen at charlid@pacbell.net or native-here@cnps.org or 510-549-0211 with your name and how best to reach you. We can discuss the broad array of ways in which you could donate your time and skills to your Chapter's cause.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

No December Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Chris Grampp—From Yard to Garden: The Domestication of America's Home Grounds

Restoration p. 6

Saturday, December 13 9:30 am, *Genista* rip for Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Saturday, December 13, 10 am-2 pm, Pt. Isabel, Bay Trail (end of Rydin Road at the dog park)

Membership Meetings: see below

December: No meeting (happy holidays!)

Wednesday, January 28, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library): Chris Grampp—From Yard to Garden: The Domestication of America's Home Grounds

You say you don't have time? The Chapter has some small but important tasks waiting for you.

Maybe you are one of a growing population of wise and experienced retired folks. Maybe you are a student with a project related to plants or non-profit management. Maybe you are home with young children craving interaction with adults. You can find satisfaction in working with like-minded people of all ages in a variety of endeavors.

We really need you, many of you, and we promise you a rewarding experience.

Give me a call. We can chat about the potential you have to offer your Chapter a helping hand, doing something that you can do, that you will want to do, and that the Chapter very much needs done.

Charli Danielsen

Wednesday, February 25, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library): TBA

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Ralph and Lisa Shanks—Indian Baskets of Central California: Art, Culture, and History

NATIVE HERE/PLANT FAIR REPORT

Native Here has new expanded hours through February. We'll stay open an extra hour on Saturdays, until 2 pm, and we'll also be open on Tuesdays from 12 pm – 3 pm. The extra weekday hours allow agencies, park staff, and landscape professionals, as well as home gardeners, more opportunities to buy plants during the prime planting season. The Tuesday hours will also allow us to better accommodate requests for contract-grown plants.

The Plant Fair, held October 18-19, was a big success and everything went very smoothly. The volunteers worked as a great team, or set of teams, with the leaders of each function able to orient their volunteers and interact with related functions. One innovation this year was an "information booth" at the fair entrance that helped customers get going with an expert guide. Although the nursery never seemed crowded, the Fair generated more revenue than in previous years. The Plant Fair is over but we still have a lot of plants left, including several All California natives. We have *Verbena*, *Sedum*, three varieties of *Ceanothus*, vine maples, and more.

Volunteer opportunities and ways to help the Nursery

• **Come buy plants throughout the winter.** As plants emerge from dormancy, species not available at the Plant Fair will be offered.

• **Gregg is leading trips to collect seeds and cuttings on various days.** He lists the date, time and meeting place at www.ebcnps.org/seedtrips.html or you may call him at 510-223-3310 for more information or e-mail Charli at nativehere@ebcnps.org

• **Volunteers are welcome at the Nursery to help replenish our stock.** We'll be seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, moving plants around, watering, and doing other tasks. If interested, show up when the nursery is open or email us at nativehere@ebcnps.org to arrange other volunteer times.

We accept used pots during our open hours on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. We reuse some of them and put the rest in the bin just outside the top gate. Anyone is welcome to take pots from this bin to use for their own planting projects.

Featured Plants for December 2008

This month we are featuring some of the plants from all over California that were offered at the Plant Fair that are still available for purchase:

Physocarpus capitatus (the common name of this member of the rose family is "ninebark") in the All California section differs from



John Taylor welcomes buyers to the Plant Fair.

Photo by Delia Taylor

the locally native one in that it is the prostrate form propagated originally from plants growing on San Bruno Mountain. This ninebark makes a great low-shrub groundcover. The twigs are very flexible so it is not bothered by dogs (or deer) running through it. Each plant has a spread of around three to four feet and grows to less than 3 feet high. While deciduous, new leaves have been known to appear within a week of the last leaf fall! Flowers and fruit are the same as the more typical ninebark, clusters of creamy white. Reasonably drought tolerant, this ninebark thrives on fog, is not fussy about soil and requires no supplemental watering after establishment in the Bay hills zone.

Ceanothus gloriosus var. *exaltatus* 'Emily Brown' is a mounding shrub to about four feet high. It is a strong, garden tolerant cultivar for both coastal and inland settings, has a broadly spreading habit. *Arctostaphylos bakeri* 'Louis Edmunds' (a manzanita) grows to be a medium to large shrub up to 10' in height. Dark bark, sage-green leaves, and clear pink flowers make it suitable as a focal point in a garden or as part of an informal screen.

Charli Danielsen

PLANT FAIR PHOTOS



Charli Danielsen

Photo By Delia Taylor



Dianne Lake

Photo By Delia Taylor



Gudrun Kleist, Jim Morel, Susan Sherwood, Judith Sherwood and Mel Erskine

Photo by Delia Taylor

FIELD TRIPS

Field trip to restoration sites in Dimond Canyon/Sausal Creek drainage

Date: Sunday, December 7

Time: 9:30-noon

Walk description: Join this last morning gathering of the December state CNPS meeting weekend to share successes and ongoing projects of the Friends of Sausal Creek. This group has partnered with the Oakland public schools and other local volunteer groups to reverse the spread of invasive plants and spread the growth and appreciation of native flora along this urban creek/public park interface. We will start from the horticultural native garden near the Dimond Park swimming pool and tot playlot, proceed to the second-growth redwoods along Monterey Road and Highway 13, and finish up at the remnant grassland area by the Friends of Sausal Creek Nursery. Because areas of housing break up the continuity of the trail, we will need to carpool to the second and third sites. E-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com if you can offer a ride, or need a ride. Also, if you only have time to attend the first part of the tour in Dimond Park before you have to leave, Dimond Park is accessible by #57 AC Transit bus from either Mills College (ask at the gate for the campus bus stop), or by the # 53 AC Transit bus from Fruitvale BART station.

How to get there: Exit 580 at Park in Oakland from either the north or south. Follow Park uphill and east from 580 until you reach El Centro, where you will turn right. El Centro is a small residential street, and the intersection has stop signs only for El Centro. Go downhill and south on El Centro about 2-3 blocks and look for parking where El Centro turns into the parking lot at the Dimond Park boundary. For bus riders, take AC Transit #57 north (toward San Francisco) until you reach Fruitvale Avenue. Get off the #57 at MacArthur and Dimond, which is one short block north of Fruitvale. Walk up to the end of Dimond, which is another park boundary, and on through the tot lot to the horticultural garden at your left. Sausal Creek runs just to the left of the tot lot. AC Transit buses have bicycle racks if needed.



Loading up

Photo by Phil Bray

Field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongues

Date: Sunday, January 4, 2009

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County) California. Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station.

Leader: David Margolies (510-654-0283, 510-393-1858 (cell) divaricatum@gmail.net)

Walk description: We will hike on the Crystal Springs Trail, where *Scolopos bigelovii* (fetid adder's tongue, Liliacea) blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens, it blooms in late January or early February.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

How to get there: Go to Woodside (if in the East Bay, cross the Bay Bridge and get on I-280 south; otherwise get on 280 south). Take the 84 west/Woodside Road exit. Go west through the town of Woodside. Soon after the main part of the town, take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right after a few miles. Go past the pay station into the main parking lot. We will meet there. Note that you must pay the parking fee even if the station is not staffed (use the envelopes provided).

Note: It will probably be muddy and may be raining. Be prepared. The walk will take place rain or shine.

Janet Gawthrop



Phoebe Watt (l.) on bulb sales

Photo by Delia Taylor

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The holiday season is upon us—what better way to celebrate than to give a membership of CNPS to a friend? Along with this membership you could include a copy of the excellent CD produced by Janice Bray with help from Charli Daniels, Gregg Webber, and the volunteers at EBCNPS Native Here Nursery. You can now work on your garden plan from your computer when it is raining. The CD contains over 250 images of local trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and vines. It is user friendly and contains information about how and where each plant grows.

You can purchase the CD for \$25.00 from Native Here Nursery (opening hours through February: Fridays from 9-12, Saturdays from 10 to 2 and Tuesdays from 12-3) or have one mailed to you. To order by mail, send a check for \$27.50 to Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley, Ca. 94708. The proceeds directly benefit our local Chapter.

Also available for a limited time are copies of the *John Muir National Historic Site California Native Plant Garden Coloring Book & Garden Guide*. The book was produced by EBCNPS members and published by the John Muir Association. It features 30 local Martinez Artists' line drawings of native plants, articles on John Muir and our native flora and fauna connections. The back page features a color picture of *Nemophila maculata* (Fivespot) from *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy* by Bonnie J. Gisel and Stephen J. Joseph, Heyday Books, used by permission of the John Muir National Historic Site, the authors, and the publisher. All this for only a \$5 donation. Pick one up on your next visit to Native Here. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact me at elainejx@att.net or call 925-372-0687. The proceeds directly benefit our local Chapter and the John Muir Association.

A special note from Membership Co-Chair Carol Castro

October, with the annual Plant Fair, is a busy and fun time for Membership activities. Participating at the Membership Table is a wonderful opportunity to see, meet and begin to know the diverse group of people drawn to the native plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. It is continually surprising to me how many walks of life native plant enthusiasts follow and yet find commonality through our appreciation and love of these often overlooked wonders of nature connecting us to our own living places.

Our volunteers provided an effective and important contribution to EBCNPS. Many thanks to Shirley Skaredoff, Judith Levine, David Jaber and many other volunteers for their enthusiasm and support during the Fair days. The Membership Committee deeply appreciates their vision and willingness to share in this important task.

A big thank you also goes to those who made cash donations at the Membership Table.

Please join me in welcoming these new and renewing members who signed up during the Fair: Joan Underwood, Britt Ascher, Greg Moore, Arleen Feng, Patrice A. Anderson, Choi-sing Louie, Jerry

D. Kent, Charlotte Toothman, Judith Levine, Paul Muniz, Carol Lampson, Paul Cheney, Adrienne Boyars, Elizabeth Ferree, Monika Olsen, Mike Gridley, Steve Toby, and Mardi Sicular-Mertens.

More Notes

Electronic notification of upcoming events and available volunteer opportunities is in the works. To be kept informed and on the cutting edge of restoring our plant make sure we have your current email address.

Have any questions about upcoming events? Interested in getting more involved? Please don't hesitate to contact us: elainejx@att.net 925-3720 x 687 or carollbcastro@hotmail.com, 510-352-2382.

Getting More Involved and Having Lots of Fun Doing It Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

Brentwood – The Friends of Marsh Creek will be planting a California Native Demonstration Garden in Creekside Park. Contact Mary Grim 925-672-6522 x 113 or email mary.grim@ca.nacdn.net

Martinez – Help needed at the new Native Plant Garden at the John Muir Historical Site Visitors Center. Join us on most Monday or Tuesday mornings for an hour or so of general clean up at our beautiful new garden. We have finalized the *Color & Garden Book* and it will be available at the John Muir Visitors Center for a \$5.00 donation. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net

Martinez – Strentzel Meadow is in the process of planning a native butterfly garden and possible seeding of additional native grasses. If you would like to help let me know, elainejx@att.net

Mt. Diablo State Park - Looking for volunteers to help park restore Mitchell Canyon's upper Mitchell Creek. It is mostly weeding blackberry and periwinkle, some planting in wet season and irrigation in dry. Work is physically demanding, ongoing every Wednesday 8 am-2 pm and the 3rd Saturday of each month 9 am-3 pm. Contact Dave Caniglia at cani@mindspring.com or 925-287-9733.

Pleasant Hill – Volunteers are always welcome at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden. Contact Monika Olsen at 925-937-1530 or email phecgarden@prodigy.net

Walnut Creek - Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net

Many other communities have local watershed organizations that provide excellent means to get involved with education, restoration and, of course, meeting people from your town or city who share your interests in native plants and their significance for the Bay Area's highly diverse micro-ecologies

(Do you know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it. Come on up to our Native Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us if you have any questions.)

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in October; Amy Balint, Alan Castner, Cynthia Fenter, Susan Handjian, Matthew

Hughes, and Christina Conser. Please let me know if I am missing your name.

Many thanks to all of you that have renewed your membership.

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, December 13 9:30 am, *Genista* rip for Huckleberry Regional Preserve

We will return to the intersection of Pinehurst and Skyline with the Bay Ridge Trail to proceed with the French broom removal we started last month. See the November *Bay Leaf* for directions to the site, but please note that when you turn right from Mountain/Moraga, the turn is at the stoplight for Snake Road. As you proceed uphill, Snake will turn to the left, but you continue on the road straight uphill to Skyline, which is Shepherd Canyon Road. We will follow the Bay Ridge Trail some meters into Huckleberry

Preserve and take out our frustrations on the *Genista* encroaching on the slope.

Saturday, December 13, 10 am-2 pm, Pt. Isabel, Bay Trail (end of Rydin Road at the dog park)

Removing fennel, broom, ice plant and cape ivy. Bring hats, gloves, sunscreen, and heavy shoes. We'll supply refreshments and munchies.

For more information contact Tom Kelly at 510-528-3949.

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 6

Saturday, December 6, Chapter Council Meeting and banquet at Mills college

All members are welcome. The [cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) website will have details as they become available. <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/index.php>

Morning and afternoon: Chapter Council meeting, Bender Room, Mills College

1 pm : Presentation by Dr David Ackerly "Climate Change and the Future of the California Flora", open to the public and Mills College Community

5:30 to 9 pm: Banquet in the Bender Room. Program to be announced.

Reservations must be made to attend the banquet. Please contact the state office or Delia Taylor for details. 510-527-3912, deliataylor@mac.com

CNPS leadership for 2009

Many thanks to those who volunteered to run. These are critical positions without which CNPS could not function.

Please note that there is one vacancy for Director 2008-2009 and that East Bay Chapter has no representation on the State Board at this time. Please consider participating. The term is only one year (if interested, contact Delia Taylor)

State Board and Chapter Council leadership for 2009 and their terms:

President – Brett Hall (2009) Santa Cruz

Vice President – Carol Witham (2009-2010) Sacramento

Secretary – Lynn Houser (2008 -2009) Milo Baker

Treasurer – Brad Jenkins (2009-2010) Orange County

Directors (2008 - 2009) –Vince Scheidt -San Diego, Alison Shilling-Sacramento, VACANT

Directors (2009-2010) – Ellen Dean- Sacramento, Jane Hicks-Jepson, Arvind Kumar –Santa Clara

Chapter Council Representatives – Brian LeNeve (2008-2009 Monterey); Lauren Brown (2009-2010) San Luis Obispo

Chapter Council Chair – Kevin Bryant (2009) Santa Clara

Chapter Council Vice-Chair – Larry Levine (2009) North Coast

Chapter Council Secretary – Laura Camp (2009) Orange County

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society
Ballot for Chapter Officers for the January 2009–December 2009 Term

Vote for each office. Place a check mark or x in the box beside each name.

President	Delia Taylor	
Vice-President	Carol Castro	
Treasurer	Holly Forbes	
Recording Secretary	Barbara Leitner	
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Gawthrop	

Why vote in an uncontested election? The CNPS members who have agreed to serve as officers deserve the support of the membership. These are volunteer positions requiring dedication and a considerable amount of time.

Please vote and send your ballot to PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705 before December 31, 2008.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President
Charli Daniels
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Vice President
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510-527-3912
deliataylor@mac.com

Treasurer
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Recording Secretary
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Corresponding Secretary
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Past President
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Regional Parks Botanic
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Grants
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Hospitality
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Publicity/Media
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Conservation Committee
Chair
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Conservation Analyst
(Staff)
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Stewardship
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Team
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Janice Bray Liaison to
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Members at Large
Gregg Weber
510-223-3310

Peter Rauch
peterar@berkeley.edu

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ____ Student, Limited income, \$25
- ____ Individual, Library, \$45
- ____ Household, Family, or Group, \$75
- ____ Supporting, \$75
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Patron, \$300
- ____ Benefactor, \$600
- ____ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

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Time Value
December 2008 issue